

formation is refused aldermen. Other deals involving other members of the school board will come to a showdown before long, it is expected.

Ald. Rob't M. Buck for the schools subcommittee reported these facts today, showing Mrs. Thornton as a nifty real estate trader to the financial advantage of her sister and husband:

Two lots at 2922-24 Kedzie av. are owned by one Bessie A. Hanson. Mrs. Thornton has a sister named Bessie A. Hanson, who lives with her at 2524 N. Kimball av. The records of county treasurer and collector show that F. E. Thornton has paid the taxes on the property for the last two years. Mrs. Thornton's husband is Dr. F. E. Thornton.

This real estate at 2922-24 Kedzie av. was ordered bought by the school board in actions on Jan. 19 and Feb. 2. A price was to be fixed by condemnation proceedings. The land was to be used by the Avondale school as a playground.

Following Buck's report, committee voted to send the school board a warning that this particular real estate deal shall stop right where it is. If the school board should go ahead in the purchase and disregard the aldermen's warning, a special meeting of the council will be called.

State's Att'y Hoyne is reported to have had a stenographer on hand today getting the facts. Ald. Kennedy said:

"We are bringing out the facts now. Whether there is any criminal law applicable we are not sure. There are statutes which specify that public officials shall not in their official capacities buy and sell to their own financial gain."

Mrs. Thornton was asked to come to the council schools committee today with a chance to answer. She didn't take the chance.

Ald. Buck's report was probably one of the most complete of its kind that has ever been brought to a council committee. It gave the numbers

of pages in official records tracing ownership of the land to Bessie A. Hanson and the payment of taxes by F. E. Thornton. The one link missing in the chain of evidence is the identification of Mrs. Eva H. Thornton as the sister of Bessie A. Hanson and the wife of F. E. Thornton.

School board secrecy of operation is handled by Ald. Buck this way in his report:

"The report of the buildings and ground committee of the board of education, submitted to the board and later to the council, was similar to the scores of other reports concerning the acquisition of property for school purposes.

"These reports purport to give full, detailed data concerning purchase and property. As a matter of fact, the names of the owners of property are given only in some instances.

"The name of an owner can be suppressed and not become of the published record.

"Under present practice names of owners and sellers can be withheld from members of the board and of the city council by the simple device of the owner not making a proposal to the board of education as to what price he will accept for his property."

School board members and employees were asked to come before the committee today and help straighten out the "business" methods now operative under Pres. Jake Loeb. These were requested: Trustee Harris Huehl, chairman sites, committee; John A. Gullford, business manager; Lewis E. Larson, secretary; Mrs. Eva H. Thornton, trustee; Dr. F. E. Thornton and Miss Bessie A. Hanson. All stayed away except Huehl. He told the committee he took cognizance and would report to sites committee of school board.

—o—o—o—
Huco, Okla.—Three posses seeking J. P. Marlow, who last night shot his wife and two men while enraged over neighborhood gossip that he had illicit relations with his own daughter.